



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Lands

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Lands was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (population 69,221) consists of 14 islands with a total land area of 183.5 square miles. The largest island, Saipan, is about 100 miles northeast of Guam and 3,300 miles west of Honolulu. Since becoming a commonwealth of the United States in 1976, the islands have experienced a population boom and a demand for guest workers. Today, 56.5 percent of residents are non-U.S. citizens. The unemployment

Cleanup Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Lands for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Marpi Point Village Homestead site on the northern end of the island of Saipan. The 153-acre site was originally used to grow sugar cane and then was used by the U.S. military to stage ordnance during World War II. It is contaminated with unexploded ordnance and explosives. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities, including publishing materials in the Commonwealth's three official languages: English, Chamorro, and Carolinian.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team
415-972-3091

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Lands
670-234-3751

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

rate is 15.9 percent, and 46 percent of residents live below the poverty level. The indigenous people of the Commonwealth are eligible for public homestead land grants to own property and build homes. When the Marpi Point Village Homestead site is cleaned up, the

Commonwealth plans to issue properties to more than 500 homestead applicants for home construction. Home construction must take place within three years, and this redevelopment is expected to create new jobs and expand the Commonwealth's tax base, as well as create new parks and greenspace.